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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Letter dated 13 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Joint Communiqué of the Second ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held on 13 September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 108 (c).

(Signed) Lauro L. **Baja**, Jr.
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
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Annex to the letter dated 13 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Communiqué of the Second ASEAN-United Nations Summit 13 September 2005

1. We, the Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Secretary-General of the United Nations met on 13 September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

2. The Second ASEAN-United Nations Summit was co-chaired by the ASEAN Chairman, H.E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The Second ASEAN-United Nations Summit was attended by Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mrs. Truong My Hoa, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Professor S. Jayakumar, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar.

4. In addition to the ASEAN Leaders and their representatives, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the President of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Vice-President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and the executive heads of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) participated in the Summit. Executive heads and representatives of the other United Nations specialized agencies, funds, programmes, departments and offices also attended the meeting.

5. We recalled the First ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held in Bangkok on 12 February 2000, which launched the high-level dialogue between ASEAN and the United Nations. The Second ASEAN-United Nations Summit is significant as it takes place in conjunction with the High-level Plenary Meeting at the United Nations. Today we took the opportunity to review and discuss the enhancement of ASEAN-United Nations cooperation. In addition, we also discussed the High-level Plenary Meeting and United Nations reform.

ASEAN-United Nations cooperation and future direction

6. We expressed satisfaction at the track record of ASEAN-United Nations relations since their inception in 1977. The ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation for the United Nations support for ASEAN's goals of realizing the ASEAN Community as envisaged under the Declaration of Bali Concord II with the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Sociocultural Community as its pillars. The United Nations welcomed ASEAN's

decision to establish an ASEAN charter, as it moves towards realizing an ASEAN community. The United Nations also welcomed the possibility of ASEAN's seeking observer status in the United Nations.

7. We expressed hope that the realization of the ASEAN Community would bring about a positive contribution to the development, stability and peace of South-East Asia, as well as the world at large.

8. We underscored the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). We acknowledged the contributions of the more developed ASEAN member countries to the less developed ASEAN member countries in providing technical assistance bilaterally and through subregional and third-country cooperation in order to facilitate the regional integration of ASEAN.

9. The ASEAN Leaders also emphasized the importance of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) in setting out the priorities for community-building in all three pillars of the ASEAN Community and for closing the development gaps. In this regard, they welcomed the continued assistance of the United Nations to the lesser developed Member States, particularly in strengthening their legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks, as well as their technical capacities in line with the goal of integration, bearing in mind the priorities as outlined in the VAP.

10. We agreed on the need to further broaden ASEAN-United Nations cooperation with the involvement of the various specialized agencies of the United Nations system to encompass all areas related to community-building including key issues related to development, in particular poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), prevention and control of infectious diseases, disaster management, transnational issues, trade and investment as well as peace and security. Both sides welcomed the convening of four joint ASEAN-United Nations Regional Seminars on Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in South-East Asia since 2001, and encouraged their continuation.

Energy security

11. We expressed concern over the impact of the rising oil prices. We agreed that the United Nations and related agencies should consider finding appropriate ways and means to strengthen international efforts to promote more efficient use of energy, energy security and alternative energy, including renewable energy such as hydropower and bioenergy, particularly in developing States Members of the United Nations. They agreed to encourage raising public awareness at all levels on this issue.

Millennium Development Goals

12. We agreed to intensify cooperation in efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals. We recalled that the MDGs adopted in 2000 set clear targets for countries to fulfil in close cooperation with the international community. We noted the slow progress made in the implementation of the MDGs and of the upcoming review of them in September 2005. We called on all the concerned parties to fulfil commitments adopted by the major international conferences and to enhance the effectiveness of aid through better coordination and harmonization among the aid-providing countries.

13. We welcomed the initiatives and activities to enhance learning among key stakeholders from the government, civil society and the business community to deal with poverty in a comprehensive and integrated manner, and to share and exchange views on how best to mainstream MDG processes into normal development functions of governments, and to establish linkages nationally and regionally for mutual support in achieving poverty reduction initiatives.

Debt relief

14. We recognized the urgent need for an effective, comprehensive, durable and development-oriented solution to debt problems of developing countries. We also agreed that innovative debt schemes could provide countries faced with staggering debt servicing with adequate resources available for specific development projects outlined in their respective national development plans or strategies.

Health

15. We were encouraged by the progress achieved in strengthening efforts to prevent and control emerging and resurging infectious diseases such as the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza, especially in enhancing regional coordination mechanisms for early warning and surveillance capacity-building and the establishment of an ASEAN Task Force on Highly Pathogenic Influenza in December 2004.

16. We expressed our concern over the serious threat to human health posed by the evolving, unprecedented spread of avian influenza. We also reaffirmed our commitment to developing national pandemic influenza-preparedness plans and implementing surveillance of human and avian influenza in order to provide an early warning of, and a timely response to, outbreaks in poultry and in humans. We called for close collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and with other international partners.

17. We agreed that urgent steps will need to be taken to implement local, regional and global initiatives — including the private sector — to reduce the present global shortage of influenza vaccine and antivirals as well as to facilitate equitable and affordable access.

18. We welcomed the support of the United Nations to work with ASEAN in realizing the goal of the Vientiane Action Programme for intensifying HIV prevention in the South-East Asia region. We reiterated our readiness to work together in scaling up programmes, particularly those addressing the needs of vulnerable populations; obtaining increased resources for HIV prevention, treatment and care; integrating HIV/AIDS in development plans; advocating for global and regional attention on HIV/AIDS; and promoting exchanges of expertise among Member States.

19. We commended the work of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS in following up the recommendations of the Seventh ASEAN Summit Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the implementation of the ASEAN work programme and its review. We believe that ASEAN should have a voice in global forums such as the World Health Assembly and participate in global decision-making regarding allocation of funds for HIV/AIDS prevention and control, and we welcome the collaboration of the United Nations in facilitating such participation. ASEAN welcomed the plans for the

signing of a memorandum of understanding with UNAIDS. We agreed that international assistance for development, including health-related issues, should be based on the needs of the countries concerned.

20. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to the United Nations for its support in helping ASEAN to implement its priority activities and encourage others to join hands with us in our efforts to prevent and control emerging infectious diseases, and in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Disaster management

21. The ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation for the humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation assistance extended by the United Nations in the face of overwhelming natural disasters.

22. We acknowledged the high level of solidarity and cooperation among ASEAN member countries, and the valuable support provided by the United Nations in responding to the humanitarian crisis following the devastation caused by the tsunami in December 2004.

23. We agreed that close collaboration is required in the rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in the affected countries, including developing appropriate national and regional early-warning capacities to mitigate the effects of future disasters.

24. The United Nations welcomed the adoption by ASEAN of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, which would build the capacity of ASEAN in rapidly responding future disasters. In this connection, the United Nations indicated that it would extend technical assistance for the efforts of ASEAN in establishing an ASEAN standby arrangement for disaster management and emergency response.

Trade and investment

25. We commended ASEAN's active and important role in trade, investment flows and cooperation and agreed that it will be further enhanced with the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community as one of the pillars of the ASEAN Community.

26. We welcomed the cooperation between the United Nations and the ASEAN Secretariat in carrying out technical activities on multilateral and regional trade negotiations and investment issues, as well as the assistance rendered to some ASEAN member countries in the process leading to their accession to the World Trade Organization. In this connection, we look forward to analytical assistance from the United Nations in future negotiations of trade and investment agreements with non-members, and in ensuring that the increased trade and investment flows in the region are conducive to achieving the MDGs.

Peace and security

27. We recognized the linkage between development, security and human rights. In this regard, we welcomed ASEAN's efforts aimed at establishing an ASEAN security community by 2020.

28. We recalled that the ASEAN Security Community embodies ASEAN's aspirations to achieve peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the region where

ASEAN member countries live at peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment. In this regard, we share a common concern in the promotion of peace, security and the rule of law, as well as the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

29. We expressed outrage at the series of terrorist attacks that resulted in the loss of innocent lives and property. We strongly condemn such acts as terror. We are fully committed to enhance cooperative efforts to combat international terrorism at national, regional and international levels.

High-level Plenary Meeting/United Nations reform

30. The ASEAN Leaders acknowledged with appreciation the good work done by the United Nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We welcomed the initiatives to reform the United Nations to adapt the Organization to meet the new challenges that have emerged. In this regard, we noted that the reports of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and the Millennium Project and the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "In larger freedom" contained many useful proposals that merit further deliberation.

31. We expressed support for multilateralism with the United Nations at the core. We supported the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in making the United Nations a more effective organization that will continue to underpin the multilateral system and to meet the challenges of the millennium. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, on his part, welcomed the contribution of ASEAN as a driving force for peace, security, stability and progress in South-East Asia and in the wider Asia/Pacific region.

32. We expressed strong support for the High-level Plenary Meeting and called on the rest of the States Members of the United Nations to cooperate in the spirit of partnership with a view to ensuring that the outcome document of the Meeting would produce tangible and concrete results.

33. We agreed to convene future ASEAN-United Nations summits.